

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the Specification as follows:

On page 1, line 11, through page 2, line 15:

By way of background, sorbent cartridges such as disclosed in U.S. ~~patents~~ Patents 4,093,105, 4,772,300 and 5,503,662 have been inserted with pharmaceuticals for the purpose of preventing their deterioration from moisture. However, the foregoing cartridges had a moisture-impermeable plastic cylindrical shell and separate porous end caps, and they were filled with uncompressed granular sorbent. Thus, their production cost included the cost of fabrication of their shells and end caps, and the labor of filling and assembling them. In addition, since their contents were uncompressed granular sorbents, their sorbent capacity was limited to their granular volume. Also, the end caps of ~~patent~~ Patent 4,093,105 were screens through which objectionable dusting could occur. Also, European ~~patent~~ Patent 0387604 disclosed a pressed desiccant tablet having a binder of polyvinylpyrrolidone and having a sprayed methylhydroxypropylcellulose coating. However, the binder was water-soluble and the coating was water-based. The water-based coating could potentially degrade the pressed desiccant during a pan-coating process.

## BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is accordingly one object of the present invention to provide an improved sorbent device in the nature of ~~an sorbent~~ a sorbent capsule, rather than a cartridge, wherein a core of sorbent material is coated with a moisture permeable coating thereby obviating the labor and expense of fabricating certain prior art sorbent cartridges.

Another object of the present invention is to provide an improved sorbent device in the nature of ~~an sorbent~~ a sorbent capsule which contains compressed sorbent, thus containing more sorbent per unit of volume than if the sorbent were in the uncompressed granular form of certain prior art sorbent cartridges.

On page 5, line 22, through page 7, line 2:

The ~~core 10~~ core 11 is fabricated by a simplified process requiring essentially only a water-insoluble polyethylene resin binder and the sorbent which are compressed by a simple pressing operation without the addition of external heat. The resin-bonded sorbent core 11 is of the type more fully described in U.S. pending patent application Serial No. 09/853,199, filed May 11,

2001, which was published in application publication number US-2002-0188046-A1 on December 12, 2002, and this publication can be referred to for details as to the physical characteristics of the core and is incorporated herein by reference. The core can be of any type described in detail in the above published patent application. While a compressed core of the type described in the above publication is preferred, other types of compressed adsorbent cores having water-insoluble binders can be used, or if desired, any other type of adsorbent or absorbent core having a water-insoluble binder can be used. Such cores can be moisture, odor, oxygen-scavenging or other gas-scavenging materials.

The permeable liquid-applied resin coating 12 of FIG. 1, as noted above, consists of water-based HPMC. The coating 12 has been applied by a pan-coating process in a tumbler which is made by the Thomas Engineering, Inc., Model No. COMPU-LAB24 and, as noted above, a 10% solids solution of HPMC is sprayed onto the cores 11 as they are being tumbled in accordance with a conventional pan-coating technique. The specific coating which is used is identified by No. 50821 SPECTRABLEND CLEAR of Sensient Pharmaceutical Technologies. It will be appreciated that other moisture permeable coatings including but not limited to cellulose ether resins, such as methyl cellulose and

hydroxypropyl cellulose, and cellulose ester resins, such as nitrocellulose, and ~~polyvinylpyrrolidones, polyvinylpropylidones,~~ and polyvinyl alcohols and acrylic resins, and vegetable gums, and starches, and natural and synthetic waxes, and gelatins may also be used.

On page 8, line 27, through page 9, line 16:

At this point it is to be noted that the pressed core can contain up to twice the weight of uncompressed granular material than in a prior art cartridge of the same volume. Therefore the capsule 10 of the same volume as a cartridge containing uncompressed granular sorbent will have a greater sorbent capacity. This can provide more efficient sorbing of moisture. Furthermore, in this respect, the prior art cartridges 13, 14 and 18 contain granules 15, 17 and 18', respectively. The prior art cartridge 13 of FIG. 5 is fully disclosed in U.S. ~~patent~~ Patent 4,093,105, and the prior art cartridge 14 of FIG. 6 is fully disclosed in U.S. ~~patent~~ Patent 5,503,662, and the prior art cartridge of FIG. 7 is fully disclosed in ~~patent~~ Patent 4,772,300. It is also to be noted that while the ends 19 of cartridge 14 are porous polyethylene which will not permit passage of dust therethrough, the ends of cartridge 13 are screens 20 which may permit dusting. As noted above, the HPMC 12 of sorbent capsule 10 encapsulates the entire core so that there is absolutely no dusting.

Page 10, lines 13 through 15:

In FIG. 4, a still further embodiment of ~~an sorbent~~ a sorbent unit 27 is disclosed wherein the side has ridges or flutes 29, as in FIG. 3, and it has a central bore 30 as in FIG. 2.